

Remarks

A first office action was issued in this case on 3-31-2003. Applicant's response to this office action was filed 7-22-2003, but the amendments were deemed non-compliant with 37 CFR 1.121 according to the 7-31-2003 office action. Specifically, the 7-31-2003 office action states that a complete list of all claims was not present in Applicant's 7-22-2003 response. In particular, claims 21-23 were identified as missing.

Applicant herein submits a complete listing to account for all claims and respectfully submit the amended claims comply with 37 CFR 1.121. Applicant's comments below provide further clarification regarding claim numbering.

Applicant's claims in the original specification were mis-numbered. Claims were originally numbered 1-4 and 8-23. In the 3-31-2003 office action, Examiner Robertson cited the mis-numbering as not in accordance with 37 CFR 1.126, and renumbered claims 8-23 as 5-20.

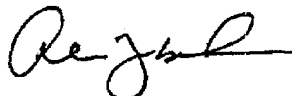
Applicant's 7-22-2003 response thus presented claims as numbered from 1-20.

Upon receiving the 7-31-2003 Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment, Applicant called Examiner Robertson on August 12, 2003 to discuss how to correct this situation. Examiner Robertson suggested to re-submit the claims as originally numbered (misnumbered). Thus, Applicant has resubmitted the claims amendments with the original numbering in response to the 7-31-2003 office action and further requests that Applicant's 7-22-2003 response be considered also in response to the 3-31-2003 office action.

The present response is being submitted within the one-month shortened statutory period for response to the outstanding Office Action. Applicant hereby authorizes the USPTO to charge deposit account 04-1520 for any other fees necessary to maintain the pendency of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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OFFICIAL